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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,586	10/23/2003	Ram Voorakaranam	P 6079.12009	9484
30615	7590	06/17/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRDWELL & JANKE, LLP 1100 SW SIXTH AVENUE SUITE 1400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			BHAT, ADITYA S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2863	

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/692,586

Applicant(s)

VOORAKARANAM ET AL.

Examiner

Aditya S. Bhat

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-14 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Variyam et al. (USPN 6,865, 500)

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

With regards to claim 1, Variyam et al. (USPN 6,865, 500) teaches a method for using an alternate performance test to test products with at most substantially the same margin of error as a specification test, comprising:

establishing a specification test limit within which a product would be accepted under specification test criteria and inner and outer alternate test error bounds relative to the specification test limit; (60; Refer to figure 6)

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initially testing the product with the alternate test; (10; Refer to figure 1)

accepting the product if the alternate test result is within the inner alternate test error bound; (Refer to figure 1)

rejecting the product if the alternate test result is outside the outer alternate test error bound; and (Refer to figure 1)

retesting the product using the specification test if the alternate test result is on or between the alternate error bounds. (16; Refer to figure 1) (Col. 2, lines 25-34)

With regards to claim 2, (USPN) teaches modifying a production test to produce a specification test whose guard band is narrower than the production test. (Col.14, lines 6-20)

With regards to claim 3, (USPN) teaches rejecting the product if the specification test result is outside the specification test limit. (Refer to figure 1)

With regards to claim 4, (USPN) teaches rejecting the product if the specification test result is outside the specification test limit. (Col.4, lines 60-61)

With regards to claim 5, 9, and 11 (USPN) teaches the alternate test provides a reduction of test time from that required by the specification test. (Col.1, lines 58-59)

With regards to claim 6 and 10, (USPN) teaches the alternate test is a signature test. (10; Refer to figure 1)

With regards to claim 7, (USPN) teaches the parameter value distribution for the product is peaked, and the specification test has upper and lower test limits. (Col. 4, lines 25-29)

With regards to claim 8, (USPN) teaches the parameter value distribution for the product is peaked, and the specification test has upper and lower test limits. (Col. 4, lines 25-29)

With regards to claim 17, Variyam et al. (USPN 6,865, 500) teaches the standard test comprises a set of individual specification tests for product parameters, and the alternate test comprises a set of individual performance tests from which said parameters may be extracted. (Refer to figure 1)

With regards to claim 18, Variyam et al. (USPN 6,865, 500) teaches the products tested are electronic integrated circuits. (Col. 1, lines 35-36)

With regards to claim 19, Variyam et al. (USPN 6,865, 500) teaches the products tested are electronic systems on a chip. (Col. 1, line 35-36)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Variyam et al. (USPN 6,865, 500).

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in

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the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(I)(1) and § 706.02(I)(2).

With regards to claim 15-16, Variyam et al. (USPN 6,865, 500) discloses the claimed invention except for an automated product test system. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have an automated product test system, since it has been held that broadly providing a mechanical or automatic means to replace manual activity which has accomplished the same result involves only routine skill in the art. In re Venner, 120 USPQ 192.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ohmhart et al (USPN 5,589,765) teaches a method for final

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testing of semiconductor devices, and Vancura (USPUB 2004/0044935) teaches a method and apparatus for improved integrated circuit memory testing,.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aditya S Bhat whose telephone number is 571-272-2270. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Aditya Bhat
June 11, 2005


John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800